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DISTRO CES 2013 DAILY

ISSUE 73.1

DISTRO CES 2013 DAILY 01.08.13

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By [Tim Stevens](#)

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On the Cover:
Photograph by
Will Lipman for Distro
Outside of the Las Vegas
Convention Center



The background is a dark, futuristic environment with curved, metallic-looking walls. A bright blue light source, possibly a robotic head, is positioned at the top left, casting a beam of light down onto a smartphone. The smartphone is a Verizon-branded device, and its screen displays a glowing red circular light, resembling a camera lens or a sensor. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and cinematic.

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WELCOME TO THE BIG SHOW



CES
2013

DISTRO

EDITOR'S LETTER

01.08.13

The trailer is wrapped in blue and white, the Engadget balloon is hoisted, the team is assembled, their gadgets are charged, the schedules are prepped and we're ready to roll. Welcome to CES, and welcome to the first of four special issues of Distro. We'll be running one for each day of the event this year, a truly massive undertaking that our production team may well learn to regret by the end of the week. May you enjoy the fruits of their labor.

While today marks the first day of CES, for us the work actually started last week. I arrived in Las Vegas last Thursday, and over the subsequent few days, the team got our trailer set up — spreading out about 20 surge protectors, four wireless access points and a half-dozen switches. We'll also be relying on dozens of mobile routers and countless smartphones, laptops, DSLR and mirrorless cameras — and more than a few cases of Red Bull.

But what of the gadgets? What of the show? This year is looking to be a transitional one, away from the big mobile product announcements of the past few iterations in Vegas and on to more,

smaller unveilings and a return to focus on the home entertainment realm.

We already know that Ultra HDTVs are going to be a big story in 2013, with every manufacturer unveiling their own take on even higher-def displays. These 4K-resolution sets prop up the hopes of the industry on their slinky bezels. Just about everyone has purchased an HDTV by now, but the advent of in-home 3D failed to move the sales needle. Will four times the resolution entice buyers? We'll find out.

Laptops, tablets and hybrids will continue to be a big story. Last year we saw the first of the Windows 8 devices on display — lots of curious notebooks with touchable displays. This year we've already seen some new entries and as the show goes on there'll be

“This year is looking to be a transitional one, away from the big mobile product announcements of the past few iterations in Vegas.”




01.08.13




many more to come. Again, the question is whether these will find more success among buyers who aren't exactly convinced that reaching up and touching their LCDs is a good thing.

And then there's the automotive world. I know I talk too much about cars in here at times, but as the world of mobile devices shifts away from CES, the carmakers have been filling in the gaps. Subaru, Ford, Toyota and Audi, among many others, have strong presences here at the show, some actually using it to launch new products — others seemingly just hanging on to stay hep with the techy crowd. I can't say that I mind, as wandering by some lovely sheet metal on the show floor certainly helps to perk up my spirits.

So, with that, let's kick off our CES

coverage. We have a timeline of the big announcements so far and a map showing you exactly where they happened. We'll also take you in the time machine for a look back at the history of the show and bring a selection of tweets and quotes from the LVCC. Meanwhile, if you want to keep up with what's happening right this very moment, head over to our CES hub on the main page, which will be constantly flowing with news, videos and podcasts. Now, relax and enjoy, and know that none of us will be relaxing until we suck every last drop of news out of this show. 



TIM STEVENS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
ENGADGET



CES
2013

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VISUALIZED

01.08.13

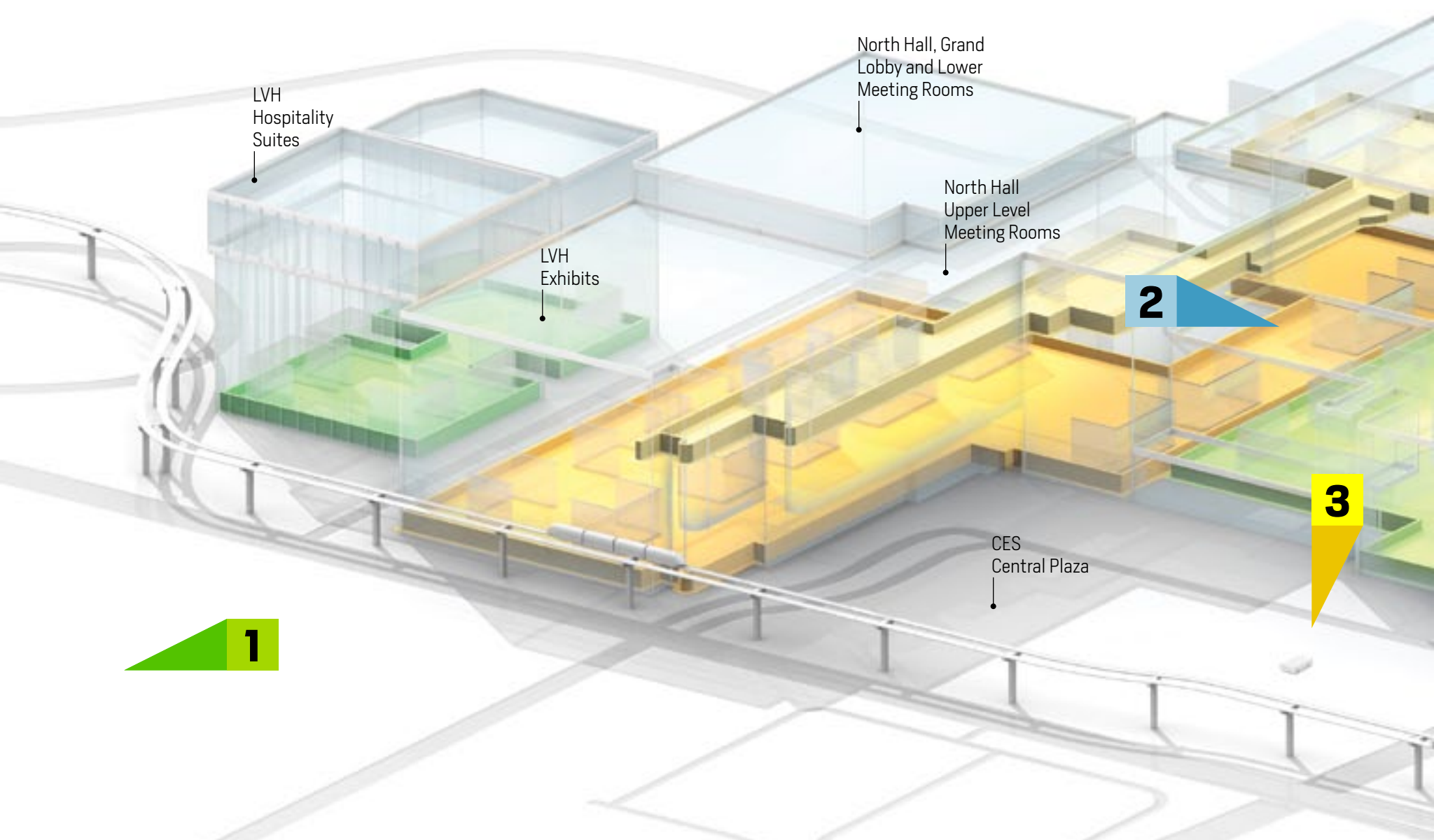


PHOTOGRAPH BY WILL LIPMAN

ULTRA ARTIFICE

A glimpse at Intel's
Ultrabook display in the
Las Vegas Convention
Center's Central Hall.



01.08.13


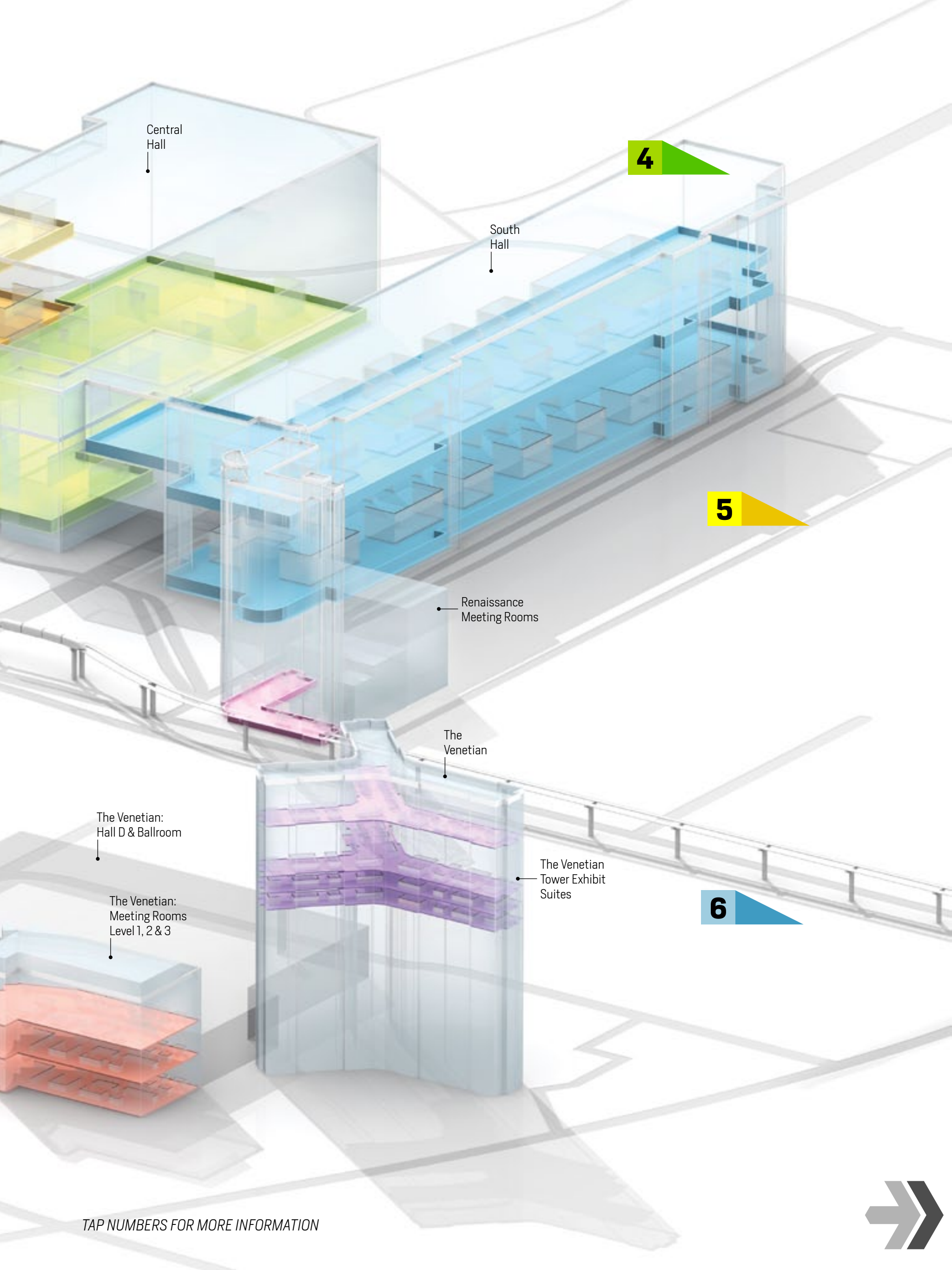
The Las Vegas Convention Center and World Trade Center

While the LVCC serves as the center of the CES universe, it can't contain all of the show's stars. In the days leading up to the official opening, events spread across Las Vegas' sprawling landscape, sending our editors to the far reaches of Sin City (or at least The Strip).

ILLUSTRATION BY BRYAN CHRISTIE DESIGN

TAP NUMBERS FOR MORE INFORMATION





Central Hall

4

South Hall

5

Renaissance Meeting Rooms

The Venetian

The Venetian: Hall D & Ballroom

The Venetian: Meeting Rooms Level 1, 2 & 3

The Venetian Tower Exhibit Suites

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TAP NUMBERS FOR MORE INFORMATION



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SIRI FOR CHEVY

3M TOUCH
SYSTEMS
84-INCH
PROJECTED
CAPACITIVE
DISPLAY

VUZIX SMART
GLASSES M100

LENOVO
THINKPAD
HELIX

TOSHIBA L9300
SERIES ULTRA
HD 4K TV

OLPC XO-4 TOUCH

Long before the doors officially open to CES attendees, the product announcements and press events start flowing like champagne at a Beverly Hills brunch. This week, the metaphorical bubbles were, perhaps unsurprisingly, made of Windows 8 hybrids and hi-def displays at events like CES Unveiled and Toshiba's Sunday night mixer. Lucky for you, we stayed sober throughout to bring you the best of the pre-show madness.



01.06.13
4:00PM

SIRI FOR CHEVY

PRICE

Free in 2013
Sparks and
Sonics

AVAILABILITY

Now Available

FIRST

IMPRESSION

Siri gets out
of your phone
and into your
car with the
simplicity of
in-vehicle
Bluetooth.



Not enough Siri in your life? Hop into a 2013 Chevy Spark (or Sonic). Those vehicles rocking a MyLink radio are eligible to upgrade to Apple's friendly iPhone 4S / 5 helper. Using the Bluetooth button on the steering wheel grants access to the assistant. If you're feeling vocal, you can also dictate responses and Siri will shoot them off, all without ever having to take your hands off the wheel. You can also ask for things like recommendations for local businesses, but those won't play through the display. Siri also won't answer your philosophic questions, as GM doesn't want to display Wikipedia pages on the screen while you're driving. From the demo, the whole thing seemed pretty straightforward for anyone who's ever used an in-car Bluetooth system, checking things like stock prices and sports scores, if you're so inclined. —*Brian Heater*



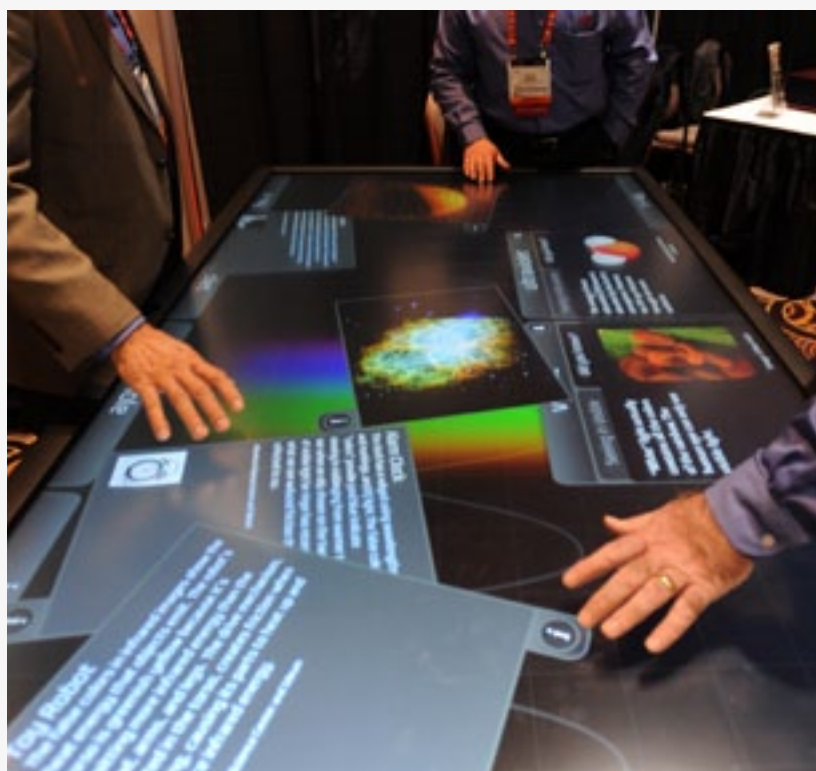
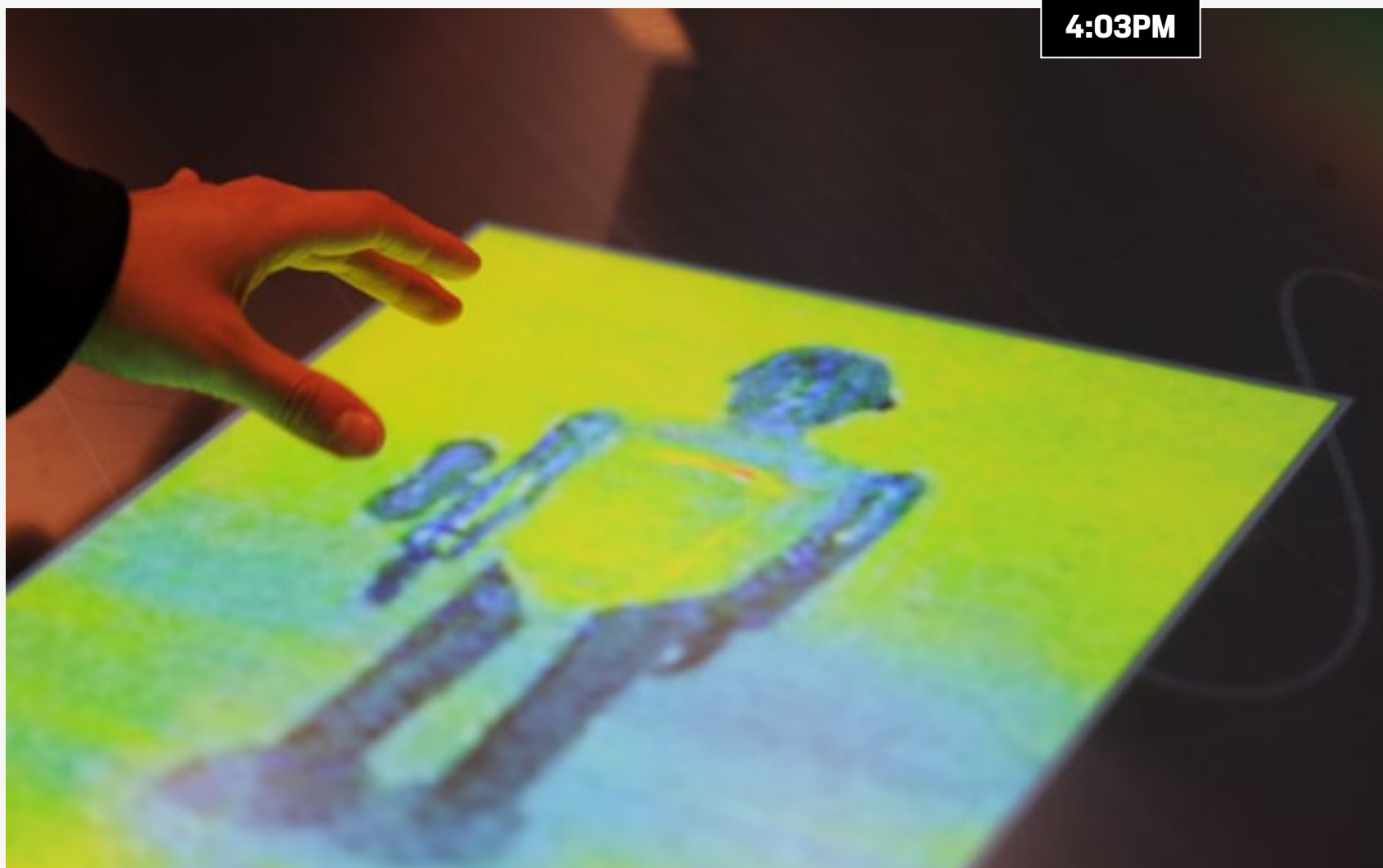
01.06.13
4:03PM**PRICE**
N/A**AVAILABILITY**
TBD**FIRST IMPRESSION**
3M teases us with the future of dinner table-sized touchscreens.

3M TOUCH SYSTEMS 84-INCH PROJECTED CAPACITIVE DISPLAY



We knew we'd be seeing 3M Touch Systems' monster capacitive display once again, but we had no idea just how massive this year's iteration would be. Taking up residence in a corner of CES Unveiled 2013, the company's latest multi-





touch prototype now measures in at 84 inches, far surpassing its 46-inch predecessor, with 100-inch versions waiting in the wings. This particular touch table now supports Ultra HD (4K) and was

shown running a software demo currently in use at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. The display's floating images aren't of the crispest quality, but that's because the files aren't fully high-res. Of course, tech of this kind isn't necessarily intended for households; it makes for a more natural fit in commercial environments (think: airports or car dealerships). At present, the table here on the show floor is calibrated to support 40 individual touch points, but a company rep assured us it could be configured for up to 60, allowing for large groups of people to interact simultaneously. While touch tabletops of this kind are still quite rare in the wild, expect to see them crop up more commonly in the near future. — *Joseph Volpe*



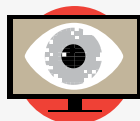


PRICE
\$500

AVAILABILITY
Summer 2013

FIRST IMPRESSION
A new contender in the cyber-wearable market that extends the functionality of your tablet or smartphone.

VUZIX SMART GLASSES M100



The wearables market is becoming a growing obsession here at CES 2013 — and it's been the first chance we've had to handle the Vuzix's M100 — its new lightweight set of smart glasses. It'll have some stiff competition from Google's incoming effort, although the premise is a little different — less augmented reality, more a wearable smart screen that pairs to your tablet or smartphone.

First up, we'll cover the technical details — the optical display projects a WQVGA resolution screen with 16 degrees of view. In use, Vuzix reckons it's comparable to a 4-inch cell-phone display. Brightness measures in at more than 2,000 nits and the device can be tethered to either your left or right





eye. It's powered by an OMAP 4 processor and the whole system runs optimized Android 4.0, although it can also be hosted on iOS software. Hardware controls include power, selection and volume, while the smart glasses also gauge three degrees of freedom through head tracking, alongside an integrated compass and GPS. The built-in camera is capable of 1080p video in a 16:9 aspect ratio, although it will be able to

capture stills too. There's also a noise-canceling mic built into the arm.

As headsets go it feels comfortable, lighter than many gaming headsets, but the battery is clocked for two hours of full use or up to eight hours on a "typical usage profile." You'll be able to use the smart glasses on top of your normal glasses, and the image is discernable. We watched a few brief animation clips of *The Incredibles* and some music videos, although the device wasn't paired through Bluetooth to the tablet that drove the device. (Our demonstration was plugged into a Kindle Fire.)

The tablet interface includes a trackpad space, areas for clicking right / left buttons and a drop-down keyboard. We noted shortcuts to Instagram, Twitter and Facebook were all ready to go and you'll be able to customize which apps appear on the smart glasses' screen. — *Mat Smith*



CES
2013

DISTRO

HANDS-ON

12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

01.06.13
4:15PM



PRICE
\$1,499 +

AVAILABILITY
February 2013

FIRST IMPRESSION
This laptop-tablet hybrid brings even more variety to Microsoft's army of Windows 8 devices.

LENOVO THINKPAD HELIX



The Lenovo ThinkPad Helix has been a known entity for some time, but it's no longer an enigma, as Lenovo is pulling back the curtain on the 11.6-inch convertible Ultrabook. Like the famously flippable ThinkPad Yoga, the Helix can be used in several different positions. Tablet and Ultrabook modes are a given, but users can also flip the tablet 180 degrees and snap it back in to the base, essentially providing a stand for using the device as a slate. In addition to supporting touch input, the Helix offers a bundled pen and a 1080p Gorilla Glass dis-



01.06.13
4:15PM

play. Speaking of the panel, it boasts IPS technology — making it “the brightest screen in the ThinkPad brand portfolio.”

Along with the just-introduced ThinkPad Edge E431 and E531, the Helix sports a new trackpad that forgoes the

secondary buttons meant to be used with the TrackPoint. Instead, these buttons are built into the clickpad, though the pointing stick is still on board. We imagine this change will upset many ThinkPad devotees, but given that we haven't seen a final production unit, we're not ready to pass judgment on the update. The highest-end configuration will run a Core i7 processor, and Lenovo says you can expect up to 10 hours of battery life. Other specs include a 5-megapixel rear camera and a 2-megapixel front-facing shooter, NFC for tapping to share and — as expected — LTE connectivity. The tablet weighs 1.8 pounds on its own, and the whole Ultrabook comes in at under four.

— Dana Wollman



01.06.13
8:01PM**PRICE**
TBD**AVAILABILITY**
Summer 2013**FIRST
IMPRESSION**
Toshiba's 84-inch 4K TV is a stunner, but we'll hold our judgment until it's production-ready.

TOSHIBA L9300 SERIES 4K TV



The latest to announce its entrance into the Ultra HD market with its 84-inch 4K LED TV is Toshiba. The L9300 series is also available in 65- or 58-inch models and will be available this summer with no word on price. According to a representative from the company, the key to Ultra HD is the processing — as there won't be much native content at launch — and it has the best with its CEVO 4K Quad+Dual Core Processor and CQ Engine. The demo model on display sure impressed, but we'll hold our final judgment for when the product finally ships. — *Ben Drawbaugh*



01.06.13
8:23PM

OLPC XO-4 TOUCH

PRICE

\$206 / Unit for
Orders of 10K

AVAILABILITY

March 2013

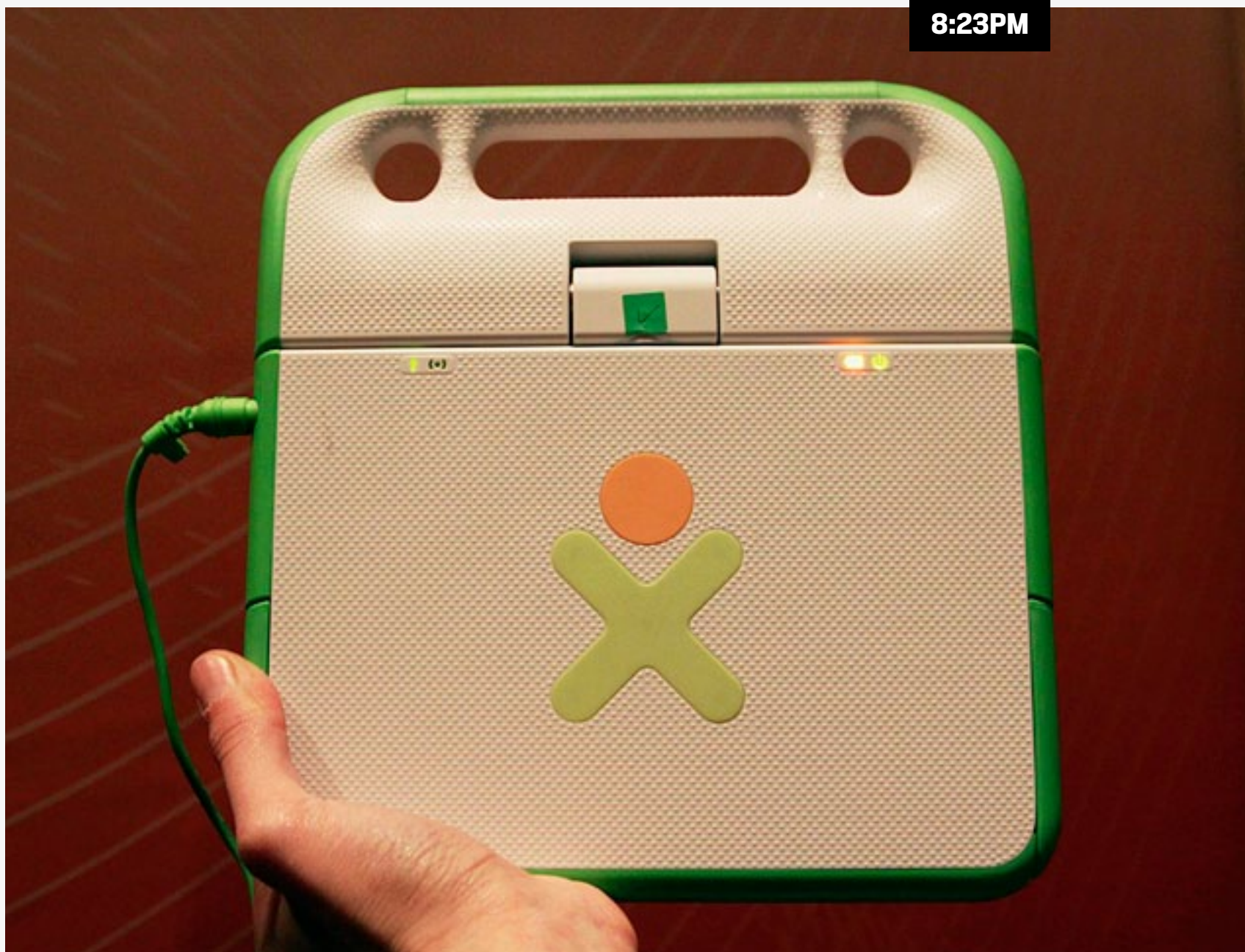
FIRST**IMPRESSION**

The fourth
generation of
OLPC's altruistic
laptop offers a
rugged hybrid
design.



Marvell wasn't ready to reveal all the details when we laid our hands on its OLPC XO-4 Touch this Sunday, but pricing, availability and more have since been released. It's not the fastest machine imaginable, but it switched between screens and loaded content snappily with its Marvell-made 1.2Ghz dual-core ARM processor. A slight hint of choppiness appears when scrolling through lists, but the hardware is definitely usable and doesn't aggravate. The unit on display didn't have an internet connection, but Marvell was happy to point out that their hardware provides the laptop with support for 802.11n, as opposed to



01.06.13
8:23PM

only 802.11b/g.

The pint-sized laptop isn't the sleekest or most compact device we've laid hands on, but it feels sturdy enough to survive abuse thrown its way from drops and temper tantrums. Its infrared touchscreen — which is optimized for small fingers — can be used in conjunction with the small keyboard, or swiveled around and laid on its back to transform the device into a chunky tablet. Odds are that fully grown hands won't be comfortable with the kid-friendly keyboard. The OLPC XO-4 performed admirably

during our brief stint with it, but you can look forward to more impressions when we eventually put it through our review gauntlet. — *Alexis Santos*



01.08.13

CES PHASE ONE: THE UNABASHED, UNVEILED AND JADED

CESpool.

@parislemon

@omarelakkad

The pitch for an alarming number of products at CES is basically: "it turns your [blank] into a [blank]."

@richardlai

Thoroughly enjoyed Lenovo's 27-inch tablet. ;-)

Packing for CES.
Underpants, despair,
shirts, schadenfreude,
charging cables,
nonspecific ennui,
hoodie, stomach acid,
antacid, toothbrush.

@jsnell

@ryan

All I wanted for Xmas was to know who is behind @CESTrailer, is that so much to ask?

@Tim_Stevens

I can't say as I'm a fan of Lenovo getting rid of the traditional ThinkPad button layout#luddite

CES is just
Burning Man
with LCD
instead of
LSD and more
clothes.

@levie

@jrvolpe

Moobs. I see MOOBS everywhere!#CES2013

@seaniccus

NVIDIA is probably about to spoil all of my major purchasing decisions over the last year.



01.08.13

Oh dear. Let's hope this is not the cream of cutting edge gadgets at #2013ces. A haptic fork to help weight loss...

@benwood**@JoannaStern**

I just sat next to an overweight man who coughed on me for the entire 5-hour flight. Somewhere in there he also ate tuna. Bring it#CES2013.

@Emily

Every outlet in my apartment is currently being used to charge a battery, phone, or backup battery.#2013CES

@Raddp

Even forks & spoons have USB ports now!

@joemfbrown

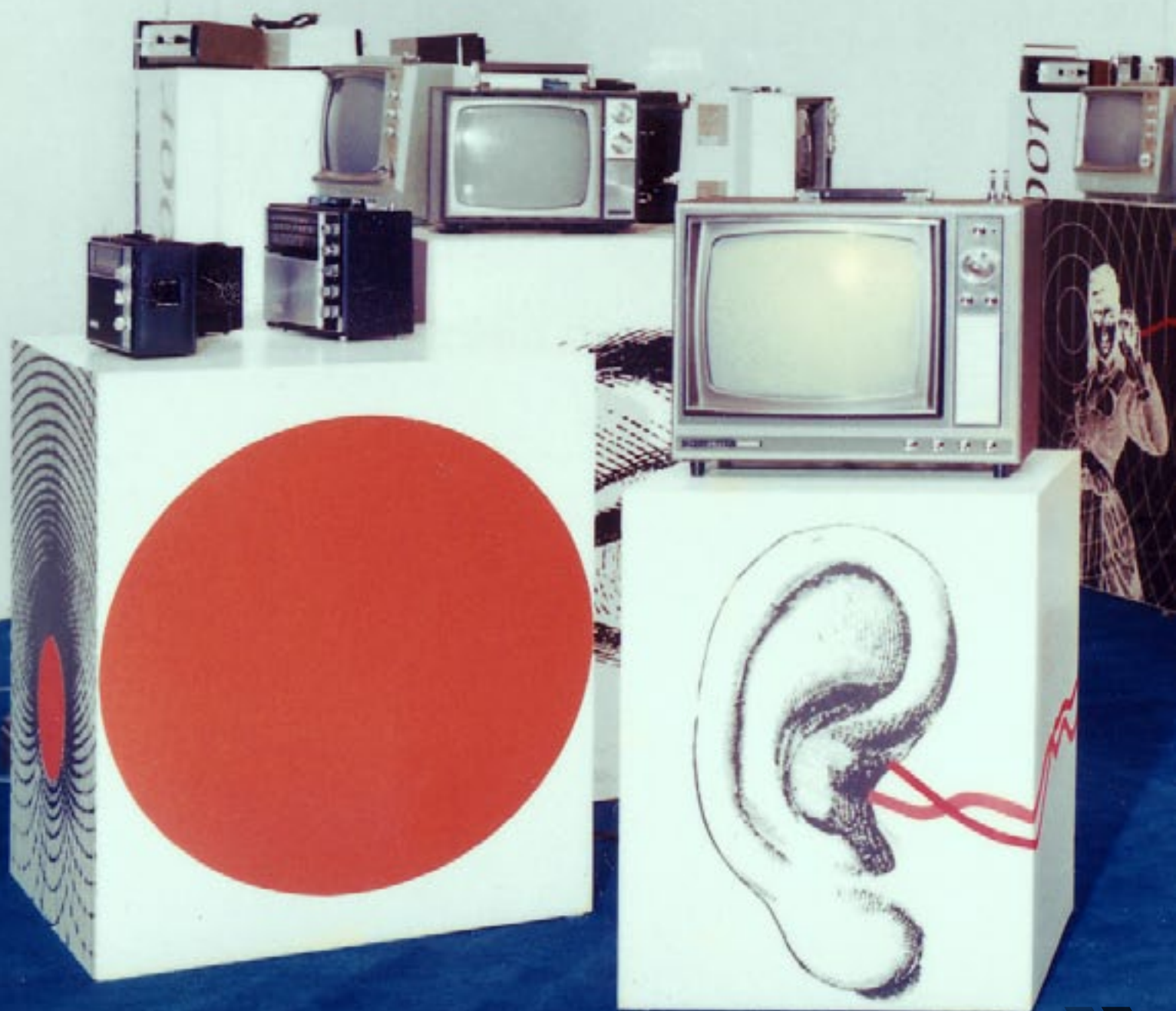
I have heard Gangnam Style so many times tonight. Please, make it stop.#CES

Based on what I'm seeing at CES unveiled I'd say many of these things would have been better off remaining veiled.

@Gartenberg

01.08.13

Broadmoor Industries Ltd.



CES1969

The third incarnation of CES took place in New York City in the summer of 1969. According to *Billboard*, that year's show kicked off with performances by singer Nancy Ames and comedian Charlie Manna. By contrast, this week's program includes appearances by Motorhead's Lemmy and MTV's Snooki. Before the widespread adoption of the PC, the show focused primarily on television and audio equipment from major industry leaders and a few now largely unrecognizable outfits like Broadmoor Industries.



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